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DEC 15 2011

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Michael Berger et al. :
Application No. 10/569,493 : **DECISION ON PETITION**
Filed: February 27, 2006 :
Attorney Docket No. **2177.1029** :

This is a decision on the petition, filed September 29, 2011, which is being treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.181 (no fee) requesting withdrawal of the holding of abandonment in the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This application was held abandoned for failure to reply to the final Office action mailed December 8, 2010, which set a three (3) month shortened statutory period for reply. A Notice of abandonment was mailed July 29, 2011.

Petitioner asserts that the Office action dated December 8, 2010, was not received.

A review of the written record indicates no irregularity in the mailing of the final Office action, and, in the absence of any irregularity, there is a strong presumption that the Notice was properly mailed to the practitioner at the address of record. This presumption may be overcome by a showing that the Notice was not in fact received. In this regard, the showing required to establish the failure to receive the Notice must consist of the following:

- (1) a statement from the practitioner describing the system used for recording an Office action received at the correspondence address of record with the USPTO. The statement should establish that the docketing system is sufficiently reliable. It is expected that the record would include, but not be limited to, the application number, attorney docket number, the mail date of the Office action and the due date for the response.
- (2) Practitioner must state that the Office action was not received at the correspondence address of record, and that a search of the practitioner's record(s), including any file jacket or the equivalent, and the application contents, indicates that the Office action was not received.
- (3) A copy of the record(s) used by the practitioner where the non-received Office action would have been entered had it been received is required. A

copy of the practitioner's record(s) required to show non-receipt of the Office action should include the master docket for the firm. That is, if a three month period for reply was set in the nonreceived Office action, a copy of the **master docket report** showing all replies docketed for a date three months from the mail date of the nonreceived Office action must be submitted as documentary proof of nonreceipt of the Office action. If no such master docket exists, the practitioner should so state and provide other evidence such as, but not limited to, the following: the application file jacket; incoming mail log; calendar; reminder system; or the individual docket record for the application in question. See MPEP §711.03(c)(I)(A).

See MPEP § 711.03(c) under subheading "Petition to Withdraw Holding of Abandonment Based on Failure to Receive Office Action," and "Withdrawing the Holding of Abandonment When Office Actions Are Not Received," 1156 Official Gazette 53 (November 16, 1993).

The petition satisfies the above-stated requirements. Accordingly, the application was not abandoned in fact.

In view of the above, the Notice of Abandonment is hereby vacated and the holding of abandonment withdrawn.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to JoAnne Burke at (571) 272-4584.

This application is being referred to the Technology Center Art Unit 2617 for re-mailing the final Office action of December 8, 2010, with the period for reply running from the mailing date thereof.

/Ramesh Krishnamurthy/
Ramesh Krishnamurthy
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions